

42 - 9 (i)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-42 (Canceled)

43. (New) A controlling device, comprising:

a function key actuatable to command one or more functions of a plurality of different appliances;

a plurality of device keys actuatable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the function key; and

a device type indicator visually associated with the function key for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of the function key.

44. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein the function key comprises a hard key.

45. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 44, wherein the plurality of device keys comprise soft keys displayed using a touch screen.

46. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 45, wherein the device type indicator is displayed in the touch screen in a location visually linked to the hard key.

47. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein actuation of the function key commands an appliance volume function.

48. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein actuation of the function key commands an appliance tuning function.

49. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein the function key includes indicia representative of the one or more functions to be commanded upon actuation of the function key.

50. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein the device type indicator comprises alphanumeric symbols.

51. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, comprising programming for allowing a user to lock the function key such that actuation of the function key will command one or more functions of the selected one of the plurality of different appliances without regard to subsequent actuations of the plurality of device keys.

52. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 43, wherein the plurality of device keys are made available for actuation upon a user placing the controlling device into a setup mode.

53. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 52, wherein the device type indicator comprises a soft key having visual indicia representative of the one of the plurality of different appliances which will be commanded upon actuation of the function key and the setup mode is entered upon the user actuating the soft key.

54. (New) A controlling device comprising: a plurality of keys comprising a first control group of keys and a second control group of keys; a first device type indicator of a first plurality of device type indicators, wherein the first plurality of device type indicators correspond to devices the first control group of keys may be set to control and the first device type indicator is visually associated with the first control group of keys, whereby a user may readily discern which device the first control group of keys is set to control based on the first device type indicator visually associated with the first control group of keys; a second device type indicator of a second plurality of device type indicators, wherein the second plurality of device type indicators correspond to devices the second control group of keys may be set to control and the second device type indicator is visually associated with the second control group of keys, and a user may readily discern which device the second control group of keys is set to control based on the second device type indicator visually associated with the first control group of keys; a first plurality of device type keys corresponding to devices the first control group of keys may be set to control upon selection of one of the first plurality of device type keys; a second plurality of device type keys corresponding to devices the second control group of keys may be set to control upon election of one of the second plurality of device type keys; and wherein the first plurality and the second plurality of device type keys are soft keys

and wherein the first device type indicator is different from the second device type indicator.

55. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 54, wherein the first plurality of device type keys is the same as the second plurality of device type keys.

56. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 54, comprising a touch screen, wherein the soft keys, the first device type indicator, and the second device type indicator are displayed on the touch screen.

57. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 56, wherein the first plurality of device type keys are displayed in response to a user selecting the first device type indicator.

58. (New) A method of configuring a controlling device comprising a display screen, the method comprising: displaying a first device type indicator to indicate a device type a first control group of keys is set to control and displaying a second device type indicator contemporaneously with the first device type indicator, wherein the second device type indicator indicates a device type a second control group of keys is set to control; in response to a user initiating a set up mode for the first control group of keys, displaying a first plurality of device types the first control group of keys may be set to control; in response to a user selecting one of the first plurality of device types, setting the first control group of keys to control a device corresponding to the selected one of the first

plurality of device types; replacing the first device type indicator with a device type indicator corresponding to the selected one of the first plurality of device types; and exiting the set up mode.

59. (New) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the display screen comprises a touch screen and the method comprises: sensing a user selecting the first device type indicator via the touch screen; and in response to sensing the user selecting the first device type indicator, initiating the set up mode for the first control group of keys.

60. (New) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the display screen comprises a touch screen and the method comprises: sensing a user selecting the one of the first plurality of device types via the touch screen; and in response to sensing the user selecting the one of the first plurality of device types, setting the first control group of keys to control the device corresponding to the selected device type.

61. (New) The method as recited in claim 58, comprising displaying a third device type indicator, wherein the third device type indicator indicates to which master control mode the controlling device is set.

62. (New) A computer readable medium for use in a controlling device comprising a display, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for: displaying a first device type indicator, wherein the first device type indicator indicates a device type a first control group of keys is set to control; setting the first control group of keys to control a

device type selected by a user from a plurality of device types; displaying the plurality of device types the first control group of keys may be set to control; displaying a second device type indicator contemporaneously with the first device type indicator, wherein the second device type indicator indicates a device type a second control group of keys is set to control; and displaying a master mode indicator contemporaneously with the first and second device type indicators.

63. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 62, wherein the instructions display a plurality of soft keys associated with a master mode corresponding to the master mode indicator displayed.

64. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 63, wherein the instructions display the soft keys associated with the indicated master mode as a default.

65. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 64, wherein the instructions replace the displayed master mode soft keys with the plurality of device types the first control group of keys may be set to control during a set up mode for the first control group of keys.

66. (New) A remote control comprising: a first control group of keys set to control one of a plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user which of the plurality of devices the first control group of keys is set to control; a second control group of keys set to control one of a plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user which of the plurality

of devices the second control group of keys is set to control; means for setting the first control group of keys to a different one of the plurality of devices; means for indicating to a user a selection comprising the plurality of devices from which the user may select the different one device; and means for indicating to a user in which master mode the remote control is set; wherein the means for indicating which device is controlled by the first control group of keys, the means for indicating which device is controlled by the second control group of keys, and the means for indicating the master mode are adapted to operate simultaneously.

67. (New) A controlling device, comprising:

- a plurality of function keys including a first group of function keys actuatable to command volume functions of a plurality of different appliances and a second group of function keys actuatable to command tuning functions of a plurality of different appliances;

- a plurality of device keys actuatable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the first group of function keys and actuatable to select one of the plurality of different appliances as an appliance to be commanded upon actuation of the second group of function keys;

- a first device type indicator visually associated with the first group of function keys to indicate to a user to which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the first group of function keys; and

a second device type indicator visually associated with the second group of function keys for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances was selected to be commanded upon actuation of a function key selected from the second group of function keys.

68. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 67, comprising a third device type indicator for indicating to a user which one of the plurality of different appliances will be commanded upon actuation of a function key other than a function key selected from the first group of functions keys and the second group of function keys.

69. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 67, wherein the function keys comprise hard keys.

70. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 69, wherein the plurality of device keys comprise soft keys displayed using a touch screen.

71. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 70, wherein the first device type indicator is displayed in the touch screen in a location visually linked to the first group of function keys and the second device type indicator is displayed in the touch screen in a location visually linked to the second group of function keys.

72. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 67, wherein each of the function keys includes indicia representative of one or more functions to be commanded upon actuation of the function key.

73. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 67, wherein the first device type indicator and the second device type indicator each comprises alphanumeric symbols.

74. (New) The controlling device as recited in claim 67, wherein the plurality of device keys are made available for actuation upon a user placing the controlling device into a setup mode.